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Before the JUN 2 9 1992 FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554 Federal Communications Commission Office of the Secretary

In the Matter of) CC Docket No. 92-141 1992 Annual Access Tariff Filings)

AT&T OPPOSITION TO REQUEST FOR PARTIAL STAY ORIGINAL

Pursuant to Section 1.45(d) of the Commission's

Rules, American Telephone and Telegraph Company ("AT&T")

hereby opposes the request of the Ameritech Operating

Companies ("Ameritech") to stay that aspect of the

Bureau's June 22, 1992 Order regarding the 1992 annual

access tariff filings which requires Ameritech to revise

rates to reflect price cap sharing allocations based on

relative basket revenues rather than relative basket

earnings.* Ameritech's request should be denied, because

Ameritech has failed to meet its burden of establishing

any of the prerequisites for such relief prescribed in

Virginia Petroleum Jobbers Ass'n v. FPC.**

First, Ameritech has not shown that there is a substantial likelihood it will prevail on the merits. For this prong of the test, Ameritech relies solely on its concurrently filed Application for Partial Review of the

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^{*} In the Matter of 1992 Annual Access Tariff Filings, CC Docket No. 92-141, Memorandum Opinion and Order, DA 92-841 (released June 22, 1992) ("Bureau Order").

^{** 259} F.2d 921, 925 (D.C. Cir. 1958).

Order ("Application"). Although the Application is couched in terms of seeking a remedy for alleged "distortions" caused by the Bureau Order's specification of relative basket revenues as the basis for allocating price cap sharing amounts, in essence the Application requests the Commission to overturn its decision in the 1991 Price Cap Reconsideration Order* to include LEC interexchange service revenues in the calculation of overearning sharing amounts that are owed to interstate access customers.** In support of that position, the Application merely reiterates the same arguments which the Commission fully considered and rejected more than a year ago in the Price Cap Reconsideration Order.*** there is no substantial likelihood that Ameritech will prevail on the merits, and its stay request should be denied for that reason alone.

Ameritech also has not met its burden of showing that irreparable harm will result if the stay is not granted. Ameritech claims (at 2) that, absent a stay, the

^{*} In the Matter of Policy and Rules Concerning Rates for Dominant Carriers, CC Docket No. 87-313, Order on Reconsideration, FCC 91-115 (released April 17, 1991) ("Price Cap Reconsideration Order").

^{**} See, Application, p. 3 ("[T]he Commission left the door open to the implementation of a sharing mechanism that minimizes the distortion caused by including the interexchange services in the computation of the price cap sharing amount.").

^{***} Compare Application, pp. 3-5 with Price Cap Reconsideration Order, par. 97.

Bureau Order would impose upon Ameritech a "choice" that allegedly would either harm Ameritech, by requiring it to lower Carrier Common Line ("CCL") and Traffic Sensitive ("TS") rates, or injure some of its customers by "requiring" Ameritech to raise Special Access and Interexchange rates to "make up" the "difference." This, however, is a false "choice." Nothing in price cap regulation prohibits Ameritech from making appropriate reductions in its access rates, whether in accordance with its own business judgment or in response to a Commission Indeed, the whole purpose of price cap regulation order. is to give LECs the incentive to become more efficient and to pass on those efficiencies to customers in the form of lower rates. Thus, the possibility that Ameritech might have to reduce its CCL and TS access rates as a result of the Bureau Order is not the type of "irreparable harm" which would justify a stay.

Ameritech has further failed to show (at 3) that a stay would not harm the interests of others. Ameritech states that it would voluntarily submit to an accounting order and, if it loses on the merits, refund "the higher rates for [CCL] and [TS] charges that would result from sharing in the manner proposed by [Ameritech]."

Section 204 of the Communications Act, however, provides that the Commission may issue an accounting order only with respect to "a proposed charge for a new service or

increased charge." Ameritech's proposed CCL and TS charges in its 1992 annual interstate access filing obviously were not for new services; nor were they increases over previously filed rates.* The Commission, therefore, is without statutory authority to impose an accounting order in these circumstances. Moreover, even if it were permitted, an accounting order would allow Ameritech to charge its customers higher CCL and TS rates while its stay request and Application for Review are being adjudicated, a process that could take a year or more. Requiring interstate access customers to pay those higher charges for that period of time, even under an accounting order, is contrary to the public interest in light of the likelihood that Ameritech's Application will ultimately fail on the merits.

^{*} See Ameritech TRP data in support of 1992 annual interstate access filing, Chart RTE-1, pp. 1-4.

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WHEREFORE, for the reasons stated herein, Ameritech's Request for Partial Stay of the Bureau's June 22, 1992 Order should be denied.

Respectfully submitted,

AMERICAN TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY

By. Francine J. Berry

David P. Condit Peter H. Jacoby

Its Attorneys

295 North Maple Avenue Room 3244J1 Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920

Dated: June 29, 1992

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Karen L. Mitchell, do hereby certify that on this 29th day of June, 1992, a copy of AT&T's Opposition to Request for Partial Stay has been served by first class mail, postage prepaid, upon the parties listed on the attached Service List.

Attachment

SERVICE LIST

Floyd S. Keene, Esq.
Michael S. Pabian, Esq.
2000 West Ameritech Center Dr.
Room 4H76
Hoffman Estates, IL 60196-1025
Counsel for the Ameritech
Operating Companies

*Cheryl A. Tritt, Chief Common Carrier Bureau 1919 M Street, N.W. Room 500 Washington, D.C. 20554

J. Scott Nichols
Roy L. Morris
Allnet Communication Services,
 Inc.
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C.

John C. Shapleigh
Association for Local Telecommunications Services
Suite 1240
7536 Forsyth Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63105

Andrew L. Regitsky
MCI Telecommunications Corp.
1801 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

James S. Blaszak, Esq.
Charles C. Hunter, Esq.
Gardner, Carton & Douglas
1301 K Street, N.W.
Suite 900
Washington, D.C. 20005
Counsel for Ad Hoc Telecommunications

Andrew D. Lipman, Esq.
Jonathan E. Canis, Esq.
Swidler & Berlin, Chartered
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20007
Counsel for ALTS & Metropolitan Fiber

Richard Juhnke
Sprint Communications Company,
LP
1850 M Street, N.W.
Suite 1110
Washington, D.C. 20036

Cindy Z. Schonhaut
Metropolitan Fiber Systems,
Inc.
3000 K Street, N.W.
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20007

^{*} Designates service by hand.